

200 WAR WORKERS AT GIESBORO PLANT GO ON STRIKE; GERMAN SPY SMUGGLED INTO U. S. FROM U-53 ARRESTED; WORLD AWAITS GERMAN'S PEACE TERMS IN REICHTAG

PEACE PARLEY HALTED FOR REICHTAG SPEECH

**Troublesome Negotiations Suspended
Awaiting Von Hertling's Reply to
President Wilson's Peace Terms.**

KAISER IN THE CONFERENCES

**Heart of Russia Is Cheered by Encouraging
Tone of America's Message—Francis
Warns of Germany.**

Amsterdam, Jan. 14.—Upon Chancellor von Hertling's speech in the Reichstag tomorrow depends the fate of the Russo-Teuton peace negotiations. The conference at Brest-Litovsk again came within a hair's breadth of breaking up in a row during the last forty-eight hours, and even tonight most of the correspondents in Russia foreshadow an early fiasco as inevitable.

The Teuton militarists, for whom, as is now established, Kuehlmann and Czernin serve as mere megaphones, would not budge; nor would Trotzky; nor would the Ukrainians.

Many Conferences.

But in the eleventh hour, it is reported, the wires that connect Brest-Litovsk direct with Wilhelmstrasse, began to buzz with mysterious hints that Count von Hertling may hint at what Count von Hertling may hint at the Reichstag main committee tomorrow.

This was a welcome straw to the central powers' delegates; they were prompt to take their cue. Immediately dispatches regarding the Brest-Litovsk parleys took on a calmer tone. At least accounts the Russian delegates were returning to Petrograd, but the negotiations it was said, are to be resumed shortly at Warsaw.

Hugo Haase, leader of the Independent Social Democrats, has made a speech in the Reichstag on the repression of all opposition extended by the Kaiser's government. Even in Austria, where the cabinet three years after the beginning of the present war ruled in a truly autocratic fashion with assembling the Reichsrath, and where even in time of peace a censorship of the press is established, the people are allowed to speak more freely than in Prussia.

"At Vienna," he continued, "monarchical mass meetings were held to increase the Russian armistice and peace. These meetings were followed by great demonstrations in the public squares. The Vienna Arbeiter Zeitung was allowed to print reports on these affairs, filling pages. But in Germany it is forbidden even to mention these events. Within the last days the censors went so far as to enjoin the press to refrain from mentioning whether the offer of an armistice is to be regarded as a political or military affair. Even purely theoretical, academic discussions of this kind are prevented."

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In Berlin, momentous politico-military conferences lasted far into the night. The Kaiser, Hindenburg, Ludendorff, the crown prince, the chancellor, and President Wilson and Lloyd George.

There is a distinct feeling in diplomatic quarters that defiance will be the keynote, for the militarists are reported more firmly in the saddle than ever before—so firmly that some expect the chancellor to make an out-and-out annexationist speech, or at least a threat that unless her terms are accepted now by all, the central powers will be "compelled" to claim spoils in the West as well as in the East.

In Petrograd and Russia at large the name of President Wilson is once more on all lips. True there is still criticism, opposition and invective, but the heart of Russia as a whole is cheered by the American Executive speech, which is only now beginning to be understood in its full portent.

New Year Message.

It was in this frame of mind, no longer fanatically vindictive, but conciliatory open, that the Russian people today digested a New Year message from United States Ambassador Francis, which said in part: "The Russian people cannot be too often reminded and too deeply impressed by the fact that their hard-earned freedom is jeopardized by negotiations for a separate peace, and that if Germany dominates Russia their liberty and the fruits of revolution will be sacrificed."

Meanwhile at Brest-Litovsk the speech, transmitted in full over the wire from Petrograd at Premier Lenin's order proved a strong factor in stiffening the backbone of the Russian delegation.

FRENCH PREMIER TO CUT OUT RED TAPE

Future Dealings with American Forces Will Be Hastened.

With the American Army in France, Jan. 14—Premier Clemenceau's effort to cut out the red tape that has been in vogue in the French army, especially in its relation to the American forces, is already appreciably felt here.

For instance, when the American Expeditionary Force sends a communication to any branch of the French government, Clemenceau's order requires that an answer or acknowledgment be sent within three days, thus avoiding delays ranging from two weeks to two months. When the American forces order goods from the French supply departments the dealer usually quotes on the stock on hand, the price and estimate of the time required to fill the order.

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The grain crop in 1917 was good in quality, but far below the normal quantity, owing to the lack of fertilizers and insufficiency of labor. Russian prisoners have been doing most of the farm work in Austria, and exchange of prisoners with Russia in the event of a peace being arranged is not looked upon as an unmixed blessing.

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The prisoner's wife was the central figure in a sensational murder trial just before the war. She shot and killed Gaston Galmetti, editor of the Paris Figaro. She was acquitted.

BARACKS FIRE BELIEVED SET BY CIGARETTE

Private, Held, Had Stump in His Pocket When Arrested.

Sparks from a cigarette in the hand of Private Vincenzo Ferro, 30 years old, are thought by local police investigators to have caused the \$150,000 fire which destroyed food, provisions and clothing in a warehouse of the quartermaster's department of the Washington Barracks yesterday afternoon. Ferro is under arrest.

Circumstantial evidence, according to local police who went over the ground before the military intelligence bureau took the rein for an investigation, points to Ferro as being the originator of the blaze, which caused four alarms to be sent in and kept engines on the scene until nearly 6 o'clock last night.

"No Smoking" Violated.

According to the police, Ferro had asked information about smoking in the building before the blaze, and was informed that he could not smoke within the walls by the sergeant in charge of his detail. He is said to have walked away, mumbling, "Howard S. Beane and Ferro were working on the second floor, storing damaged bedding and materials which were thrown out of the building during a small fire last week. Ferro left a pile of \$50 worth of material in the building, where the fire originated, according to the police, and returned on the coming of Frederick Woodward, private of the Quartermaster's Corps, detailed as clerk, to supervise the storing."

The three men met and went down stairs ten minutes before the fire was discovered by a detachment of engineers returning from the field.

"Police are of the opinion that Ferro went to the south end of the building to take his coveted smoke, heard the clerk on the stairs, 'choked' the cigarette, letting the red tip fall upon a pile of \$50 worth of material, which readily caught up and started the blaze. The half-burned cigarette was found in his pocket, police say."

So quickly did the gain headway that a non-commissioned officer, who was drawing supplies for his company at the south end of the building on the first floor where the quartermaster is located, on his arrival at the scene of the blaze at the top of the stairs declared that "it ate down the corridor twenty-five feet" before he "could take two steps."

The draft and wind made the flame a roaring blaze in short order. Scattered about the second floor, where the fire originated, were articles awaiting condemnation by an officer of the Inspector General's Department. Sheds of old uniforms, and clothing were piled loosely about.

Packing Cases in Path.

In the middle of the floor running parallel with the walls of the building from north to south was a wall of packing cases piled to the ceiling. In these packing cases were \$15,000 worth of regulation hats and seven cartons of winter clothing and uniforms, which had arrived during the past week. All these were ruined by fire and water.

Outside of the buildings is an ice-covered mass of hats, leggings, uniforms and bedding.

The military intelligence bureau ordered an investigation last night and the situation is entirely in its hands. The local police are taking no part in the work, but standing ready if called for.

The explosions heard by South Washington shortly after the fire started were the result of the flames reaching some small arm ammunition stored at the south end of the building. This was the first spot to which the firemen directed their attention checking the fire here and cutting it off before any further damage could be done.

Explain Arrest of Two.

It was stated that the two men arrested, who were reported to have been connected with the fire, were two delinquents being turned over to military authorities for failing to answer questionnaires within the prescribed limit.

Police officers and all in authority are unanimous in the opinion that the fire was not started by a German sympathizer. Ferro is an Italian. Lieut. Col. Earl, post commander, said last night that Ferro was probably charged with disobedience of orders.

Willard Favors Plan.

Daniel Willard said: "If President Wilson can give to the president of the War Industries Board authority to deal with all questions effectively the plan would work."

Bernard M. Beruch said: "I believe we should have a higher centralized agency under the direct control of the President. I would prefer an individual, for then the responsibility could be absolutely fixed."

Members of the Senate committee felt congratulatory by these sentiments. For the views of the two men sanctioned the committee's ideas.

W. S. Gifford, director of the Council of National Defense, will be heard today. His thoughts on the matter are said practically to parallel those of Mr. Willard and Mr. Beruch.

It is expected after Mr. Gifford is heard the Chamberlain bill will be sent to the floor of Congress.

Secretary Baker said on Saturday that no single man could be found sufficiently "omniscient" and "omnipotent" to carry on the work of buying all the war supplies.

"The objection to the matter is that it creates an impossible task. No human being can be found who can undertake all the bills asked for."

Senator New called this statement to the attention of Mr. Baruch.

"He said no one could be found who could carry through the task proposed," said Senator New.

Mr. Baruch smiled enigmatically.

"Well, I ask for your views on that statement," persisted Senator New.

"I differ with him," replied Mr. Baruch, still smiling, with everybody else in the committee room.

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ARREST OF GERMAN SPY FOILS EXPLOSION PLOT

Former Member of U-Boat 53, Wearing U. S. Army Officer's Uniform, Nabbed at Norfolk Station.

APPLYING MATCH TO A FUSE

Capture Reveals Plot to Cripple American Naval Stations with Eight Already Under Arrest—Bernstorff Implicated.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 14.—Clothed in the uniform of an American army captain, Lieut. Walter Spooman, of the German navy, was arrested today when caught trying to apply a match to a fuse in the magazine of the Old Point Comfort Aviation Station.

The arrest is said to have revealed a widespread plot to cripple American naval stations at Norfolk, Hampton Roads and Portsmouth. Eight persons are reported arrested by Secret Service men, including one woman.

Fort Monroe Marked.

If the attempt had not been frustrated today it would have caused a disastrous explosion wrecking the aviation station and destroying several hydroplanes and other flying machines.

It is also believed that Fort Monroe was marked for destruction.

When taken into custody letters were found on Spooman from Boy-Ed and Von Bernstorff, former German Ambassador to the United States. He also had a receipt showing that he had received \$50,000 from the Bernstorff hand with which to carry on his spy work in this country assisted by eight confederates.

He served on the German submarine U-53, which made its appearance off the Virginia coast in October, 1916, before United States went into the war.

Officers from the undersea craft came ashore, but it was not known that any had remained in the country. The arrest today revealed at least one spy was left until the crew returned.

It was announced at that time that the stop of the submarine on American shores was simply for the purpose of delivering papers to Count Von Bernstorff. Later Capt. Rose, the commander, and the U-53 was captured by the French.

Brought to Baltimore.

Spooman will be brought to Baltimore tomorrow by operatives of the naval intelligence bureau. He was arrested at the point of a pistol on Langley field, near Norfolk, where he had been working for one of the construction contractors. Papers seized in his rooms here in Baltimore indicated his close connection with the activities of former Ambassador Bernstorff and Capt. Boy-Ed.

The Navy Department last night confirmed the arrest of Lieut. Walter Spooman, reported to be a lieutenant of the German army, at Langley field, the aviation base near Norfolk, Va. The navy intelligence department which made the arrest refused to discuss it or to tell what Spooman was doing to cause his being taken into custody. The man was turned over to the Department of Justice.

FAVOR SINGLE CONTROL OVER WAR SUPPLIES

Willard and Baruch Differ with Secretary Baker on Purchasing Methods.

The administration and its "dollar-a-year" advisers reached the parting of the ways yesterday on the question as to how best to handle war purchases.

Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and Bernard N. Baruch, speaking in large measure for the big business men in the advisory commission of the Council of National Defense, endorsed the theory of a single-man control of purchases, that is, the germ of the Chamberlain bill creating a secretary of munitions.

In this they diametrically opposed the judgment of Secretary of War Baker, who contends that no such radical change is necessary. Mr. Willard, who is chairman of the advisory commission, testifying before the Senate Military Affairs Committee said:

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Recognizes Differences.

Of course, the new arrangement does not go as far as that, but it recognizes the differences of function, while insuring close co-operation through regular meetings of officers and civilian officials as members of a single board.

While the changes mark the accession to power of younger men, who have learned the lessons of the times and who are abreast of the times and not entangled in any alliance with red tape or precedent, the British admiralty is being converted into a more efficient machine rather than being transformed by the revolutionary forces of untied ideas.

Wemyss Free to Think.

The position of Wemyss, under the new regime, is best indicated by stating that he will in future be left perfectly free to think. Practically the only department with whose detail he will be concerned is the intelligence department, from which he must necessarily draw material for his thoughts.

The bulk of the fighting work will fall on the deputy chief of staff, Rear Admiral S. R. Fremantle, who has the department's operations under him. All the first lord's correspondence will be handled by Rear Admiral C. P. W. Hope, deputy first sea lord, to whom also will be allotted control of such operations overseas as may develop through the possible escape of a German raider.

The whole antiaircraft and mine-sweeping campaign in home waters, together with the conduct of convoy movements, is assigned to a separate office, under the assistant chief of staff, Rear Admiral A. L. Duff.

Approval Predicted.

This newly-established, but old policy of drawing a distinction between operations and maintenance—between the two—searchlights playing on a misty sky and the heavy detonations of exploding dynamite last night gave the officers of Washington a vivid idea of the terrors of a Zeppelin air raid.

Starting shortly after 6 o'clock last evening, portions of the city were rocked by violent explosions of dynamite at Twentieth and B streets northwest, where the George A. Fuller Construction Company in clearing ground for a new building, began the work of demolishing the old granite pillars that seven years ago occupied a place at the Fifteenth street entrance to the Treasury Building.

Searchlights Play.

Accompanying the detonations four great army searchlights quartered the sky, searching every portion thoroughly, while the fifth swept the heavens in wide arcs.

Hundreds of people, alarmed by the continuous explosions, deluged police headquarters and newspapers with impatient queries in regard to the bombardment. Scores were convinced that German raiders had somehow managed to send a fleet of Zeppelins to raid the city.

Others, equally certain, coupled the fire at the Washington barracks earlier in the day with the demonstration of last night and came to the conclusion that Hun spies were dynamiting public buildings.

Many officers at the War College called the searchlight demonstration a "practice searchlight drill," and intimated that it was in connection with drills directed toward protection of the city from enemy aircraft.

MAJ. GARDNER DIES AT CAMP OF PNEUMONIA

Former Congressman Gave Life to the Cause of Preparedness.

Maj. A. P. Gardner, former Republican Representative from Massachusetts, died at Camp Wheeler, Macon, Ga., at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Death was due to pneumonia.

A telegram to that effect was received here last night at the home of his father-in-law, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, of Massachusetts, just as the latter was leaving for Camp Wheeler.

Mrs. Gardner was at her husband's bedside when he died.

News of Maj. Gardner's death spread rapidly among members of Congress last night, and the prediction was made in several quarters that the probably result in a renewed investigation into health conditions at the camp.

Representative Gillett, of Massachusetts, acting minority leader of the House, commenting on the tragic ending of the former Representative, said: "It was a terrible and useless waste of a very valuable life."

No arrangements have been made as yet for the funeral, it was stated. At the Lodge home, however, it was regarded as probable that the body would be sent direct to the Gardner home at Hamilton, Mass.

Maj. Gardner gave his life in the cause of preparedness. He was among the first in Congress to advocate a bigger army and a bigger navy, sounding his warnings even before the European war broke out. He became more and more insistent as events in Europe indicated that America would be drawn into the world conflict.

It was in line with his efforts to encourage every movement leading to more adequate preparations that he joined the Officer's Reserve Corps when it was first organized.

Defied Danger for Honor.

When war was declared by the United States, a call was issued for members of the reserve corps to rally to the colors he was the first member of Congress to turn in his resignation from the legislative body and don the khaki.

His assignment to the National Guard troops in training at Camp Wheeler brought him for a while in close touch with Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, in whose preparedness propaganda the former Representative had a warm sympathy. He was also a strong admirer and follower of former President Roosevelt.

Among the younger officers at the barracks, Maj. Gardner was extremely popular. Camp Wheeler has been going through an epidemic of pneumonia, due, in the opinion of Surg. Gen. Gorgas, to overcrowding of the tents, a fault since remedied.

The information that Maj. Gardner was critically ill was received here by Senator Lodge yesterday in the form of a telegram from Mrs. Gardner. The Senator was about to leave his home for the station when the later telegram was received announcing his son-in-law's death.

Maj. Gardner was 32 years of age and was graduated from Harvard University in 1896. For two years he was a member of the Massachusetts State senate and served during the Spanish-American war. He was elected to a vacancy in the Fifty-eighth Congress and served continuously thereafter until he resigned to enter the army at America's entry into the present Sixty-fifth Congress, which convened April 2, 1917.

More Dealers Forced To Obtain Licenses

President Wilson issued a proclamation last night placing under license all "dealers in feeds and malt, salt-water fishermen, canners, manufacturers of tomato, wheat and rye products and other food commodities."

Those desiring to obtain their permits by February 15 or go out of business. Applications must be made to the Food Administration.

Officials of the Food Administration explained last night that the proclamation does not cover the retailers, nor does it give the grip on the final distributor of food, for which legislation is sought.

German Raid British.

The one other action reported on the front held by the British was a German raid early this morning southeast of Arras, in which the British lost a few men.

Minor infantry encounters on the western front, the Meuse, followed the only break in the extended lull on the French front. Paris declares that the fire of French batteries dispersed German detachments which were attempting to approach the junction of the Meuse and the Marne.

The Italians conducted a successful operation on the Lower Piave yesterday, driving back small enemy posts east of Cape Sile and north of Cortelazzo, destroying the defenses and capturing material. Rome reports today, "Cape Sile is on the Piave delta and was the scene of sharp fighting in the early days of the Austro-German invasion, when repeated attempts were made to cross the stream and bring the Auston guns within range of Venice."

NEGRO MURDERED.

During a fight at 346 H street southwest, early this morning, Joseph Easton alias "Brother Bee," colored, 21 years of age, 29 I street southwest, was shot in the face, directly above the nose, and instantly killed by Page Wormley, colored, 23, of 346 H street southwest. Wormley was arrested.

Zeppelins Over Capital Only Workmen Blasting

Series of Explosions with Practice Searchlights Playing Cause Fear of Air Raiders—Excavations Responsible for Noise.

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200 STEEL PLANT MEN QUIT BENCHES IN BODY

Machinists and Toolmakers Strike Over Sunday Wage Difference—Loyalty to United States.

MAY SEEK WORK ELSEWHERE

William H. Johnston, International President of Union, Declares Steelworkers Will Stand Pat Until Company Accedes.

Machinists and toolmakers employed at the Washington Steel and Ordnance Company plant went on strike yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock, following the "summary" dismissal of eight of their number for refusal to work Sunday at the prevailing rate of pay.

Two hundred men, members of the Washington Lodge of Machinists, Local No. 193—all that are employed at the plant—have quit. William H. Johnston, international president of the Machinists' Union, made this announcement last night.

Eight Men Discharged.

Should the differences between the company and the men fail of settlement other employees of the plant also will walk out.

The eight men dismissed yesterday were called one or two at a time by company officials and discharged, Mr. Johnston said. As soon as their dismissal became generally known the men immediately resolved to strike until their companions were reinstated.

Members of the union reporting at 4 o'clock in the afternoon refused to start work when they learned of the action and the third shift of the day, beginning at midnight, followed their example.

Dismissal of the men, according to Mr. Johnston, grew out of their refusal to work Sunday unless they were paid double time. Double-time pay for Sunday and holidays has been the rate of pay for the men for three years.

Recently, the men claim, the company, without explanation, reduced this day to time and a half, and at a meeting of the union held three weeks ago a resolution declaring their intention to refuse to work on Sundays and holidays for less than double rate of pay was adopted.

"Our men are as loyal as any you can find," Mr. Johnston said. "They are willing to work any old hours for the government at any old time. But we feel that when working for a company that is making a profit our present stand is just."

Another grievance against the company is held by the men. They claim that an increase in pay was asked for and promised by the company last November. The increase was to go into effect the first of this year. When the date of the increase arrived, Mr. Johnston said, it was refused with the explanation that the superintendent without authority.

Negotiations looking to a settlement of this dispute were under way and settlement in sight, Mr. Johnston said, when the action of the company in dismissing the men for abiding by the action of the union brought about the strike.

A conference with War and Navy Department and other government officials scheduled to take place today, he said, probably would be held despite the strike action taken yesterday.

He expressed confidence that the differences between the men and the company would be quickly adjusted. "I think the company has made a mistake. I am confident they will see it, and higher officials of the company will reverse the action taken yesterday and reinstate the men."

Time and half-time pay was the regular rate for ordinary overtime work, Mr. Johnston said, but for more than three years the men have been receiving double time for Sunday and holidays.

While he expects a complete settlement of the differences, Mr. Johnston said that unless the adjustment was quick and entirely satisfactory to the men, they would be ordered away to other cities. Thousands of machinists and toolmakers are needed in plants all over the country, he explained.

Officials of the steel company refused to discuss the strike in any way beyond admitting that there had been "some trouble."

The company is engaged upon considerable ordnance work for the government, it is said.

CAILLAUX LOCKED UP ON TREASON CHARGE

Former French Premier Alleged to Have Encouraged Hun Peace.

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